

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 EA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 OIC-01

SP-03 OES-02 IOE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 L-01 /051 W

----- 077955

P R 271455Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8340

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 298

CONFIDENTIAL HELSINKI 0422

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROF, PDIP, WMO, SZ, VS, VN, FI

SUBJECT: PROPOSED "PRG" OBSERVER STATUS AT 7TH WMO CONGRESS

REF: A) STATE 041918 B) HELSINKI 0133 (C) HELSINKI 0251

1. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAD MADE EARLIER APPROACH TO MFA ON PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT 7TH WMO CONGRESS (REF. B) AND WAS CONVINCED THAT THE NEW FINNISH POLICY OF SUPPORTING PRG ATTENDANCE AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WHERE RVN REPRESENTED, FIRST FOLLOWED AT LOW CONFERENCE, IN FACT SET THE POLICY FOR SAME QUESTION AT ANY OTHER CONFERENCES, WE CHECKED WITH MFA AND WERE INFORMED THAT FINLAND ON THE 12TH OF FEBRUARY SENT IN ITS BALLOT SUPPORTING PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT WMO CONGRESS.

2. IT IS QUITE CLEAR TO US THAT AS THINGS STAND NOW, FINLAND WILL IN FACT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PRG ATTENDANCE AT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES WHERE RVN IS REPRESENTED. WE DO NOT AT THIS TIME SEE ANY POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING

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FINLAND'S POLICY ON THIS MATTER.

3. MORE IMMEDIATE QUESTION IN THIS CONNECTION IS WHAT, IF ANY-
THING, USG SHOULD TRY TO DO TO AVERT FURTHER GOF MOVES
FAVORING PRG SUCH AS ELEVATION OF THE STAUTS OF THE PRG
INFORMATION OFFICE IN HELSINKI OR FORMAL RECOGNITION
OF PRG.

4. IT WOULD SEEM THAT OUR TRADITIONAL APPROACH OF MAKING
DEMARCHES AND EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN STRICTLY THROUGH
REGULAR DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS IN HELSINKI AND WASHINGTON
HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. WE ARE AFRAID THAT IF THE FINNS
DO NOT NEED TO FEAR ANYTHING MORE THAN A QUIET ONE-TIME
DIPLOMATIC RAP ON THE KNUCKLES THEY WILL NOT BE CON-
STRAINED TO SEE THINGS OUR WAY.

5. WE THEREFORE SEEM TO BE FACED WITH THREE GENERAL
OPTIONS FOR RESPONSES TO FINNISH ACTIONS. ONE IS TO
CONTINUE TO RESTRICT OURSELVES TO MAKING DIPLOMATIC
DEMARCHES IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL ACCOMPLISH OUR
OBJECTIVES. ANOTHER IS TO RAISE THE PROSPECT THAT
FURTHER FINNISH ACTIONS IN THIS DIRECTION WILL LEAD TO
AT LEAST A SERIOUS AND POSSIBLY PUBLIC QUESTIONING OF
THE CONTINUED CREDIBILITY OF FINLAND'S POLICY OF NEUTRALITY.
A THIRD OPTION COULD BE DEMANDING EQUAL TREATMENT FOR
THE RVN IN ALL RESPECTS AND IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO
HELSINKI INFORMATION OFFICE. THIS WOULD, OF COURSE,
REQUIRE RVN WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE BY IN FACT BEING
READY TO OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN HELSINKI, TO EX-
CHANGE VISITS WITH FINLAND, ETC. WE ARE NOT RECOMMENDING
THAT THIS OPTION BE IMPLEMENTED, BUT DO WISH TO RAISE IT
FOR DEPT.'S CONSIDERATION WHEN DECIDING ON WHAT THE MOST
APPROPRIATE U.S. RESPONSE WILL BE IF GOF CONTINUES FAVOR
PRG. WHATEVER THE DECISION IS, IT IS OF UTMOST
IMPORTANCE THAT THE DEPT. AND EMBASSY NOT ONLY DO BUT ALSO
APPEAR TO BE WORKING CLOSELY IN TANDEM ON THIS QUESTION.
WE THEREFORE DO NOT PROPOSE TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION
UNTIL RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPT.

HOUSTON

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NNN

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